

Did Gandhi's Influence Die With Him?

THREE bullets from the gun of a Hindu assassin, tearing through the frail body of 78-year-old Mahatma Gandhi, brought to a violent end the enigmatical career of one who was universally known and respected as the exponent of non-violence.

The tragic happening has shocked and alarmed the world. Only a day or two ago, Gandhi was heard declaring : "India has known, and the world should, too, that every ounce of my energy has been, and is being, devoted to the avoidance of fratricide culminating in war."



With Gandhi gone, it may no longer be possible to hold in check the forces of disruption and ruthlessness, present in India for generations, but restrained firstly, by the British Raj and, secondly, by the mystical power of the slight, almost emaciated figure.

It was said that only Gandhi could perform the miracle of showing Moslems and Hindus that they could live together as good neighbours. That there will be a period of unrest is perhaps inevitable, but the world will anxiously await a sign that the undoubtedly powerful influence of the greatly revered leader did not end with his passing and that ultimately it will prevail.



such as giving a firm hand
across a busy street,
and keeping her supplied
with her favourite cigarettes—
“Petite,” of course.
Plain or cork-tipped—
they’re mildest of all.
Just right,
for the Pause that’s brief.